

Whereas the settlers at Jamestown and Plymouth were initially deprived of the fruits of their own labor and therefore lacked the incentive for private initiatives and hard work;

Whereas William Bradford, Governor of the Plymouth Plantation, wrote that in response to the misery and want experienced by the people of Plymouth he decided "that they should set corn every man for his own particular; and that regard trust to themselves This had very good success, for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been by any means the Governor or any other could use.";

Whereas on November 18, 1618, "The Great Charter" endowed the colonists of Virginia with the right to profit from property under their individual control for the first time; and

Whereas the result of the Great Charter was a blossoming of individual initiative and self-sufficiency that laid the foundations for the American tradition of economic freedom, prosperity, and self-government; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the men and women of our first colonies who began the American tradition of hard work and individual initiative;

(2) honors all those who have defended the right of individuals to own property, pursue their own initiative, and to reap the fruits of their own labor; and

(3) designates November 18, 1996, as "American Free Enterprise Day".

The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and Federal, State, and local administrators to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IMPLEMENTING PROVISION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Resolution 304, submitted earlier today by Senator LOTT.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 304) approving certain regulations to implement provisions of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 relating to labor-management relations with respect to employing offices of the Senate and employees of the Senate, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at this point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 304) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 304

Resolved,

SECTION 1. APPROVAL OF REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The regulations described in subsection (b) are hereby approved, insofar as such regulations apply to employing offices of the Senate and employees of the Senate under the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) and to the extent such regulations are consistent with the provisions of such Act.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to compliment the Senate and the leadership for acting on these resolutions today approving certain Congressional Accountability Act regulations. The first bill passed in this Congress was the Congressional Accountability Act. With great fanfare we stood together in this Chamber and announced to other Americans that we, as Senators, are no better than they are. We are not special, we are not different, and we will no longer make laws just for other Americans. Rather, we will make laws for all Americans, including ourselves. And with my bill, the Congressional Accountability Act, we applied 11 laws, including the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Americans With Disabilities Act, and so on, to ourselves.

Now the Office of Compliance, created by the Congressional Accountability Act, has promulgated regulations that require our approval. The resolutions before us approve the so-called 220(d) regulations. These regulations address the collective bargaining rights of nonlegislative offices. I am very pleased that the Senate is acting on these regulations today.

Unfortunately, neither of these resolutions contain the 220(e) regulations, which address the collective bargaining rights of legislative offices. The House Oversight Committee recently voted to send these regulations back to the Office of Compliance and asked that they be redrafted. And last week, the Office of Compliance's Board responded with two separate letters addressing the committee's actions. Due to these recent events, it seems pointless to push the Senate to consider these regulations at this time. However, I plan to ask the leadership to make the 220(e) regulations one of the first items of business for the 105th Congress.

If we are to be honest with the American people, we must not escape fully implementing the Congressional Accountability Act. For now, I ask that the Senate act on the 220(d) regulations by voting on these resolutions.

APPROVING CERTAIN REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT PROVISIONS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 207, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 207) approving certain regulations to implement provisions of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 relating to labor-management relations with respect to covered employees, other than employees of the House of Representatives and employees of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 207) was agreed to.

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY REFORM ACT OF 1996

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3118, and that the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3118) to amend title 38 of the U.S. Code to reform eligibility for health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 5414

(Purpose: To provide a substitute)

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, Senator SIMPSON has a substitute amendment at the desk. I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. NICKLES], for Mr. SIMPSON, for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. WELLSTONE, proposes an amendment numbered 5414.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam President, the legislation now before this body may be one of the most significant veterans' bills of the last few years. In agreeing to this bill, the Congress will make, under the rubric of health care "eligibility reform", changes in the nature